

Superintendent of Schools

December 14, 2012

It is with a heavy heart that I clarify the facts of a tragic accident that occurred at Bearspaw School, Dec. 12, 2012. Forty-eight hours ago, at the start of the school's lunch recess, a Grade 3 boy was found in the washroom, unresponsive with his lanyard caught on a washroom cubicle door. 911 was immediately called and emergency protocols initiated. A certificated first aid instructor and teacher at the school successfully performed CPR on the student until paramedics arrived. The student was rushed to the Children's Hospital and immediately placed in ICU - where he remains at this hour in stable, but critical condition.

The entire Rocky View Schools' organization and Bearspaw community are in shock that this tragedy has occurred. We continue to gather information about the accident, as is the RCMP, who has ruled out foul play. What exactly transpired in the washroom to result in this injury remains unknown.

Our crisis response team has been onsite for the past two days to tend to the emotional needs of not only our students and staff, but also our parents. We will continue to provide this support for as long as necessary.

I extend a sincere gratitude to the community of Bearspaw for their support of the school. While we continue to press to the media that they respect the privacy of both the family and the school, we hope future coverage will be factual and considerate of the emotional turmoil of everyone impacted by this accident.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both the student and family at this time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Greg Bass
Superintendent of Schools

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